

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 18, 19 and 21 are amended. Claims 8, 9, 18 and 19 are amended to place them in independent form. Claims 1, 12 and 21 are amended to recite (means for and instructions for) generating a server name mask and executing a function in a server name context on the server based on the generated server name mask. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Dinh for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 9, 11 and 18-20. By this Response, claims 8, 9, 18 and 19 are amended to place them in independent form in accordance with the Office Action's suggestion. Thus, it is Applicants' understanding that claims 8, 9, 11 and 18-20 are now in condition for allowance.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Alleged Anticipation

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 10, 12-17 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by French et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,685). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A prior art reference anticipates the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of a claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as they are in the claims. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (Fed. Cir. 1990). All limitations of the claimed invention must be considered when determining patentability. *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1582, 32 U.S.P.Q.2d 1031, 1034 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Anticipation focuses on whether a claim reads on the product or process a prior art reference discloses, not on what the reference broadly teaches. *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 U.S.P.Q. 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Applicants

respectfully submit that French does not identically show each and every feature of the pending claims, as discussed hereafter.

French discloses a method and system for multiple network names on a single server. With the method and system of French, a primary server name and one or more secondary server names are registered with a server via a configuration file. The server is able to respond to requests directed to either the primary server name or the one or more secondary server names. In this way, when a server fails, another server in the cluster may take over responding to requests to that server name.

French, however, does not teach the generation of a server name mask or the execution of a function in a server name context based on a generated server name mask. While French teaches that a configuration file for a server may have a primary server name and a plurality of secondary server names to which a server responds, there is no teaching in French to generate a server name mask based on a server name specified in a request for a function. In fact, there is no mention whatsoever in French regarding masks, let alone a server name mask.

Thus, French does not teach each and every feature of independent claims 1, 12 and 21 as is required under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). At least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 12 and 21, respectively, French does not teach each and every feature of dependent claims 2-7, 10, 13-17 and 22. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7, 10, 12-17 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Furthermore, French does not teach, suggest, or give any incentive to make the needed changes to reach the presently claimed invention. In fact, French does not even recognize a need to make use of server name masks or executing a function in a server name context on a server based on a generated server name mask. Absent the Examiner pointing out some teaching or incentive to implement French to use server name masks and to execute a function in a server name context on a server based on a generated server name mask, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to modify French to reach the present invention when the reference is examined as a whole. Absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive to modify French in this manner, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an improper use of hindsight using the Applicants' disclosure as a template to make the necessary changes to reach the claimed invention.

Moreover, French does not teach the features specifically recited in dependent claims 5-6, 10, and 16-17. For example, with regard to claims 5 and 16, French does not teach a server name tag that is generated based on a value of a server name and a value derived from a data structure that stores the server name. The Office Action alleges that this feature is taught in French at column 9, line 53 to column 10, line 54 and column 11 lines 3-67. Column 9, line 53 to column 10, line 54 discusses an exemplary of failure of a server with another server assuming the responsibilities of the failed server, as depicted in Figures 9B-9D. As described, a server 904 is disconnected from the LAN 900 so that it can be reconfigured to assume the duties of the Inventory server. This reconfiguration may be manual through use of a command line interface by a system administrator. The system administrator may add the network name "Inventory" to the server names in a configuration file for the server 904 and server 904 may then be restarted. Upon restart, the server names in the configuration file are registered with the server name table of the network services administration module. Alternatively, these functions may be performed automatically.

Nowhere in columns 9 and 10 of French is it taught to generate a server name tag based on a value of a server name and a value derived from a data structure that stores the server name. All that is taught in French is the addition of a server name to a configuration file of a server that is to take over the responsibilities for a failed server and the registration of that server name in a server name table of a network services administration module.

Column 11, lines 3-67 of French teaches that the server 904, which is taking over the responsibilities for failed server 905, has access to the information previously stored by server 905 on a shared disk 906. In addition, the invention described in French may be used in a migration scenario in which a server that is initially configured to respond to multiple server names is reconfigured so that multiple servers may respond to those server names. Nowhere in column 11 is it taught to generate a server name tag based on a value of a server name and a value derived from a data structure that stores the server name.

With regard to claims 6 and 17, French does not teach that the value derived from the data structure is a position value of the server name within a server name table that

stores the set of server names. The Office Action alleges that this feature is taught at column 7, line 12 to column 8, line 63 and column 9, line 53 to column 10, line 54. The text of columns 9 and 10 has been addressed above with regard to claims 5 and 16. Nowhere in this text is it ever taught to generate a server name tag based on a value of a server name and a value from a data structure that is the position value of the server name within a server name table that stores the set of server names.

In addition, column 7, line 12 to column 8, line 63 of French teaches the software components within a server that provide for multiple network names on a server. These components include data structures 538 which contain server name table 542 that contains a set of server names, such as primary server name 543 and secondary server names 544-546. Only one primary name may be registered per server, but multiple secondary server names may be registered per server. At initialization, the server reads the configuration file and determines if parameters in the configuration file indicate a primary or secondary server name. If so, they are registered in the server name table of the network services administration module. There is nothing in columns 7 or 8 that teaches to generate a server name tag based on a value of a server name and a value derived from a data structure that stores the server name.

With regard to claim 10, French does not teach repeatedly identifying a plurality of resources that are applicable to the server name by searching a plurality of resource data structures for matching server name masks. As discussed above with regard to the independent claims, French does not teach server name masks and thus, cannot teach the features of claim 10. The Office Action alleges that the features of claim 10 are taught by French at column 7, line 12 to column 8, line 63 and column 9, line 53 to column 10, line 54. These sections of French have been discussed above with regard to claims 6 and 17. There is nothing in any of these sections of French, or any other section of French, that teaches the use of server name masks let alone repeatedly identifying a plurality of resources by searching a plurality of resource data structures for matching server name masks.

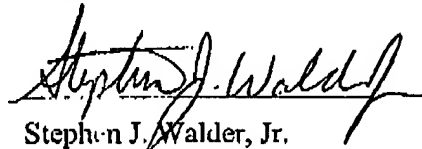
Thus, in addition to being distinguishable over French by virtue of their dependency, claims 5-6, 10 and 16-17 are also distinguishable based on the features specifically recited in these claims.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over French and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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